

Field Survey with notes on
Benthos, Sea Turtles, Manatees, and Dolphins

For

Maintenance Dredging of Venice Inlet

SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

CONTRACT NO.: DACW17-94-D-0019

Requisition No.: W32CS5-6261-5229

Prepared by:

**LOTSPEICH AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
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- Exhibit 1. Copy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Nesting Survey Reporting Form for 1996
- Exhibit 2. Copy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Nest Success Reporting Form for 1996, species: *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This technical report was prepared as part of the supporting information for the preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the National Environmental Policy Act, Department of the Army Regulation AR-200-2, Department of the Army Engineer Regulations ER-200-2-2 and CFR 335-338. This report will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in considering the issues, alternatives, and impacts associated with maintenance dredging of the Venice Inlet, Sarasota County, Florida.

Mote Environmental Services, Inc. (MESI), was contracted to provide information on benthos, sea turtles and marine mammals. Biologists from MESI and Lotspeich and Associates, Inc.(L&A) conducted a field survey during November 1996 to investigate the benthos in the vicinity of the proposed dredging and dredged material disposal sites. Of particular concern was the delineation of seagrasses within the project area. Data accumulated by past and on-going manatee observation and sea turtle programs were summarized for this report as well.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Submerged Habitats

2.1.1 Seagrasses. Seagrass meadows are a common estuarine habitat on the west coast of Florida. There are four species of seagrass common to this area: *Halodule wrightii* (shoal grass), *Syringodium filiforme* (manatee grass), *Thalassia testudinum* (turtle grass), and *Ruppia maritima* (widgeon grass). There are two other small, inconspicuous species reported for this area, *Halophila decipiens* and *Halophila englemannii* (star grass), but they do not occur in large patches. These species are reportedly limited to stable higher salinities (Dawes, 1987). Mote Marine Laboratory staff have observed *Halophila englemannii* in areas of Sarasota Bay.

Halodule is considered the pioneer seagrass species. It is the most tolerant of the species to air exposure (drying), and is generally the first species to colonize bare bay bottom when conditions are suitable for seagrass growth. *Halodule* forms an upper subtidal fringe, subject to periodic exposure. It also tends to occupy the fringes of grassbeds at the deepest limits, indicating lower light requirements. Turtle grass (*Thalassia*) is considered to be a climax community seagrass. *Thalassia* is slow to colonize and spread within new habitat and is intolerant of exposure. It can form dense beds, and the wide flat blades are subject to heavy epiphytic growth when nutrients are in excess. *Syringodium* (manatee grass) has unique cylindrical blades and occurs within the same depth range as *Thalassia*, but is usually associated with more saline conditions (approximate open Gulf salinities) and high rates of water exchange.

Within Sarasota Bay, *Syringodium* has been observed in Anna Maria Sound, the vicinity of Longboat Pass, New Pass, and near the Venice Inlet in proximity to the Albee Road bridge.

The most recent seagrass mapping for the Sarasota Bay system did not include areas south of the Albee Road Bridge (Culter, 1993). However, *Halodule* and *Syringodium* were noted in the vicinity of the Albee Road bridge, with *Syringodium* occurring into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) channel.

2.1.2 Corals. All coral species within Florida waters are protected. While coral reefs do not occur on the west coast of Florida, corals are common nearshore inhabitants of patch reefs (hard-bottom areas). Coral species are restricted to the Gulf of Mexico or to bay areas near passes with near open-Gulf salinities. In 1990 (Culter, 1990), a nearshore habitat survey immediately north of the Venice Inlet detected patch reefs with various epifauna including both soft (Octocorallia, Gorgonacea) and soft corals (Hexacorallia, Madreporaria). Corals are limited to hard-bottom substrates, and are likely to occur on the breakwater structure of the Venice inlet.

2.1.3 Marine Mammals. Low-level aerial surveys of the West Indian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) along the central Florida west coast have been conducted since 1985 as part of Mote's Marine Mammal Program. Notes on occurrences of cetaceans are also maintained as an incidental part of the aerial manatee surveys. These surveys utilized a Cessna 172 or 152 fixed-wing aircraft with a pilot and at least one experienced observer. During each flight, all viable manatee habitat in the study area was surveyed from an altitude of 500 feet at a speed of 90 mph. While the study area has changed over the last 12 years due to funding limitations, the Venice Inlet area has been consistently surveyed. Counts of manatees were recorded on standardized data sheets, and later entered into a computerized database. Based upon results from these surveys, Sarasota County was recently added to the list of key counties in the State of Florida targeted for a comprehensive manatee protection plan.

2.1.4 Sea Turtles. Daily monitoring of Venice beaches was begun to fulfill the Florida Department of Environmental Protection guidelines for sea turtle protection beginning in 1987. Mote Marine Laboratory personnel and volunteer patrol personnel are authorized through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under the marine turtle permits #028, #048, and #054.

3.0 BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION - FIELD INVESTIGATION

A field investigation of the proposed onshore disposal area and submerged habitats was conducted on 21 November 1996 in accordance with Item 10 of the Water Quality Certification application package. The field survey was conducted by a Senior Biologist from MESI and a Biologist from L&A.

The purpose of the survey was to characterize the biological conditions of the proposed onshore disposal areas (west end of Snake Island) and approximately 6,000 feet of linear shoreline adjacent to the area proposed for maintenance dredging (Venice Inlet Channel - Cuts 1 through 4 and the GIWW in the vicinity of Venice Inlet - Cuts S-19 through S-21).

3.1 Survey Methods

Prior to conducting fieldwork, a color aerial photograph of the Venice Inlet was obtained from the February 1996 Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program aeriels maintained by a commercial provider (Photo Science, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland). The photo was inspected for submerged features within the project area including shoals, seagrasses, and oyster bars. The photo was taken into the field and annotated as each feature was investigated.

The entire shoreline and shallow littoral zone was observed within the project area by shallow water vessel. General summaries of bottom conditions from each shoreline segment were summarized. Periodic stops were made where more comprehensive *in situ* observations of particular habitats were required. Particular attention was paid to submerged aquatic vegetation and other unique habitats (e.g., oyster reefs), and their proximity to the proposed dredging activity. These site-specific observations were coded on an acetate overlay of the color aerial photograph to accurately pinpoint their location. Positioning in the field was determined with a hand-held Garmin GPS Model 45™.

3.2 Summary of Observations

The summary of field investigations were separated into general locations within the project area. Discrete *in situ* observations were referenced to letter codes on the aerial photographs.

Eastern shoreline of south Casey Key: This area was characterized by a series of shoals oriented parallel to the shoreline. The shoals were either contiguous with the shoreline or in the near the vicinity of boat docks, interrupted by a region of deeper water between the shoal and the shoreline. The northern portion of the shoal consisted of clean, moderately-sorted sand and shell hash sediment. Further south the substratum was primarily clean sand. Sediment within the grassbeds of these shoals consisted of muddy sand. The shoreline supported a fringe of red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*), occasionally interrupted by residential

Geotrygon chrysia, Key West Quail-Dove
Geotrygon montana, Ruddy Quail-Dove

ORDER CUCULIFORMES

FAMILY CUCULIDAE

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, Black-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus minor, Mangrove Cuckoo
Crotophaga ani, Smooth-billed Ani
Crotophaga sulcirostris, Groove-billed Ani

ORDER STRIGIFORMES

FAMILY TYTONIDAE

Tyto alba, Common Barn-Owl

FAMILY STRIGIDAE

Otus asio, Eastern Screech-Owl
Bubo virginianus, Great Horned Owl
Athene cunicularia, Burrowing Owl
Strix varia, Barred Owl
Asio otus, Long-eared Owl
Asio flammeus, Short-eared Owl
Aegolius acadicus, Northern Saw-whet Owl

ORDER CAPRIMULGIFORMES

FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDAE

Chordeiles acutipennis, Lesser Nighthawk
Chordeiles minor, Common Nighthawk
Chordeiles gundlachii, Antillean Nighthawk
Caprimulgus carolinensis, Chuck-will's-widow
Caprimulgus vociferus, Whip-poor-will

ORDER APODIFORMES

FAMILY APODIDAE

Chaetura pelagica, Chimney Swift
Tachornis phoenicobia, Antillean Palm Swift

FAMILY TROCHILIDAE

Amazilia yucatanensis, Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Calliphlox evelynae, Bahama Woodstar
Archilochus colubris, Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Archilochus alexandri, Black-chinned Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus, Rufous Hummingbird

ORDER CORACIIFORMES

FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE

Ceryle alcyon, Belted Kingfisher

ORDER PICIFORMES

FAMILY PICIDAE

Melanerpes erythrocephalus, Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus, Red-bellied Woodpecker
Sphyrapicus varius, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Picoides pubescens, Downy woodpecker
Picoides villosus, Hairy woodpecker
Picoides borealis, Red-cockaded woodpecker
Colaptes auratus, Northern Flicker
Dryocopus pileatus, Pileated Woodpecker
Campephilus principalis, Ivory-billed Woodpecker

ORDER PASSERIFORMES

FAMILY TYRANNIDAE

Contopus borealis, Olive-sided flycatcher
Contopus virens, Eastern Wood-Pewee
Empidonax flaviventris, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Empidonax virescens, Acadian Flycatcher
Empidonax alnorum, Alder Flycatcher
Empidonax traillii, Willow Flycatcher
Empidonax minimus, Least Flycatcher
Sayornis nigricans, Black Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe, Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis saya, Say's Phoebe
Pyrocephalus rubinus, Vermilion Flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens, Ash-throated Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus, Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus tyrannulus, Brown-crested Flycatcher
Tyrannus vociferans, Cassin's Kingbird
Tyrannus verticalis, Western Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus, Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus dominicensis, Gray Kingbird
Tyrannus caudifasciatus, Loggerhead Kingbird
Tyrannus forficatus, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Tyrannus savana, Fork-tailed Flycatcher

FAMILY ALAUDIDAE

Eremophila alpestris, Horned Lark

FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE

Progne subis, Purple Martin
Tachycineta bicolor, Tree Swallow
Tachycineta cyaneoviridis, Bahama Swallow
Stelgidopteryx serripennis, Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Riparia riparia, Bank Swallow
Hirundo pyrrhonota, Cliff Swallow
Hirundo fulva, Cave Swallow
Hirundo rustica, Barn Swallow

FAMILY CORVIDAE

Cyanocitta cristata, Blue Jay
Aphelocoma coerulescens, Scrub Jay
Corvus brachyrhynchos, American Crow
Corvus ossifragus, Fish Crow

FAMILY PARIDAE

Parus carolinensis, Carolina Chickadee
Parus bicolor, Tufted Titmouse

FAMILY SITTIDAE

Sitta canadensis, Red-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta pusilla, Brown-headed Nuthatch

FAMILY CETHIIDAE

Certhia americana, Brown creeper

FAMILY TROGLODYTIDAE

Thryothorus ludovicianus, Carolina Wren
Troglodytes aedon, House Wren
Troglodytes troglodytes, Winter Wren
Cistothorus platensis, Sedge Wren
Cistothorus palustris, Marsh Wren

FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE

SUBFAMILY SYLVIINAE

Regulus satrapa, Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula, Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Poliophtila caerulea, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

SUBFAMILY TURDINAE

Oenanthe oenanthe, Northern Wheatear

Sialis sialis, Eastern Bluebird
Catharus fuscescens, Veery
Catharus minimus, Gray-cheeked Thrush
Catharus ustulatus, Swainson's Thrush
Catharus guttatus, Hermit Thrush
Hylocichla mustelina, Wood Thrush
Turdus migratorius, American Robin
Ixoreus naevius, Varied Thrush

FAMILY MIMIDAE

Dumetella carolinensis, Gray Catbird
Mimus polyglottos, Northern Mockingbird
Toxostoma rufum, Brown Thrasher

FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE

Anthus spragueii, Sprague's Pipit

FAMILY BOMBYCILLIDAE

Bombycilla cedrorum, Cedar Waxwing

FAMILY LANIIDAE

Lanius ludovicianus, Loggerhead Shrike

FAMILY VIREONIDAE

Vireo griseus, White-eyed Vireo
Vireo bellii, Bells' Vireo
Vireo solitarius, Solitary Vireo
Vireo flavifrons, Yellow-throated Vireo
Vireo gilvus, Warbling Vireo
Vireo philadelphicus, Philadelphia Vireo
Vireo olivaceus, Red-eyed Vireo
Vireo altiloquus, Black-whiskered Vireo

FAMILY EMBERIZIDAE

SUBFAMILY PARULINAE

Vermivora bachmanii, Bachman's Warbler
Vermivora pinus, Blue-winged Warbler
Vermivora chrysoptera, Golden-winged Warbler
Vermivora peregrina, Tennessee Warbler
Vermivora celata, Orange-crowned Warbler
Vermivora ruficapilla, Nashville Warbler
Parula americana, Northern Parula
Dendroica petechia, Yellow Warbler
Dendroica pensylvanica, Chestnut-sided Warbler
Dendroica magnolia, Magnolia Warbler

Dendroica tigrina, Cape May Warbler
Dendroica caerulescens, Black-throated Blue Warbler
Dendroica coronata, Yellow-rumped Warbler
Dendroica nigrescens, Black-throated Gray Warbler
Dendroica townsendi, Townsend's Warbler
Dendroica virens, Black-throated Green Warbler
Dendroica fusca, Blackburnian Warbler
Dendroica dominica, Yellow-throated Warbler
Dendroica pinus, Pine Warbler
Dendroica kirtlandii, Kirtland's Warbler
Dendroica discolor, Prairie Warbler
Dendroica palmarum, Palm Warbler
Dendroica castanea, Bay-breasted Warbler
Dendroica striata, Blackpoll Warbler
Dendroica cerulea, Cerulean Warbler
Mniotilta varia, Black-and-White Warbler
Setophaga ruticilla, American Redstart
Protonotaria citrea, Prothonotary Warbler
Helmitheros vermivorus, Worm-eating Warbler
Limnothlypis swainsonii, Swainson's Warbler
Seiurus aurocapillus, Ovenbird
Seiurus noveboracensis, Northern Waterthrush
Seiurus motacilla, Louisiana Waterthrush
Oporornis formosus, Kentucky Warbler
Oporornis agilis, Connecticut Warbler
Oporornis philadelphia, Mourning Warbler
Geothlypis trichas, Common Yellowthroat
Wilsonia citrina, Hooded Warbler
Wilsonia pusilla, Wilson's Warbler
Wilsonia canadensis, Canada Warbler
Icteria virens, Yellow-breasted Chat

SUBFAMILY THRAUPINAE

Spindalis zena, Stripe-headed Tanager
Piranga rubra, Summer Tanager
Piranga olivacea, Scarlet Tanager
Piranga ludoviciana, Western Tanager

SUBFAMILY CARDINALINAE

Cardinalis cardinalis, Northern Cardinal
Pheucticus ludovicianus, Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Pheucticus melanocephalus, Black-headed Grosbeak
Guiraca caerulea, Blue Grosbeak
Passerina amoena, Lazuli Bunting
Passerina cyanea, Indigo Bunting
Passerina ciris, Painted Bunting
Spiza americana, Dickcissel

SUBFAMILY EMBERIZINAE

Pipilo erythrophthalmus, Rufous-sided Towhee
Tiaris bicolor, Black-faced Grassquit
Aimophila aestivalis, Bachman's Sparrow
Spizella passerina, Chipping Sparrow
Spizella pallida, Clay-colored Sparrow
Spizella pusilla, Field Sparrow
Poocetes gramineus, Vesper Sparrow
Chondestes grammacus, Lark Sparrow
Calamospiza melanocorys, Lark Bunting
Passerculus sandwichensis, Savannah Sparrow
Ammodramus savannarum, Grasshopper Sparrow
Ammodramus henslowii, Henslow's Sparrow
Ammodramus leconteii, Le Conte's Sparrow
Ammodramus caudacutus, Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Ammodramus maritimus, Seaside Sparrow
Melospiza melodia, Song Sparrow
Melospiza lincolni, Lincoln's Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana, Swamp Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys, White-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia querula, Harris' Sparrow
Junco hyemalis, Dark-eyed Junco
Calcarius lapponicus, Lapland Longspur

SUBFAMILY ICTERINAE

Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Bobolink
Agelaius phoeniceus, Red-winged Blackbird
Sturnella magna, Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella neglecta, Western Meadowlark
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Euphagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird
Euphagus cyanocephalus, Brewer's Blackbird
Quiscalus major, Boat-tailed Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula, Common Grackle
Molothrus bonariensis, Shiny Cowbird
Molothrus aeneus, Bronzed Cowbird
Molothrus ater, Brown-headed Cowbird
Icterus spurius, Orchard Oriole
Icterus galbula, Northern Oriole

FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE

SUBFAMILY CARDUELINAE

Carpodacus purpureus, Purple Finch
Carduelis pinus, Pine Siskin
Carduelis tristis, American Goldfinch



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



JULIE K. MORRIS
Sarasota

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
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Miccosukee

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VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

110 43rd Ave., S.W.
Vero Beach, FL 32968
October 29, 1996

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1996

LOTSPEICH AND ASSOC. INC.

Ms. Ann M. Hague
Lotspeich and Associates, Inc.
422 West Fairbanks Avenue
Suite 201
Winter Park, FL 32789

RE: Presence of Listed Species in the Venice Inlet
Dredging Project Area, Sarasota County

Dear Ms. Hague:

The Office of Environmental Services has received your request for information relating to the occurrence of state listed species on the project site referenced above. Sarasota County is out of the area of responsibility for this office (see enclosed map). Therefore, we have forwarded your request for listed species information to our Punta Gorda office. Please note, future requests for sites located outside our office's area of responsibility should be directed to the following addresses:

For sites South of Hernando County,

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Environmental Services Field Office
29200 Tucker Grade
Punta Gorda, FL 33955

For sites located in Hernando County or all other counties northward,

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Office of Environmental Services
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Ms. Ann M. Hague
Page 2
October 29, 1996

If you have any questions please contact me at (561) 778-5094.

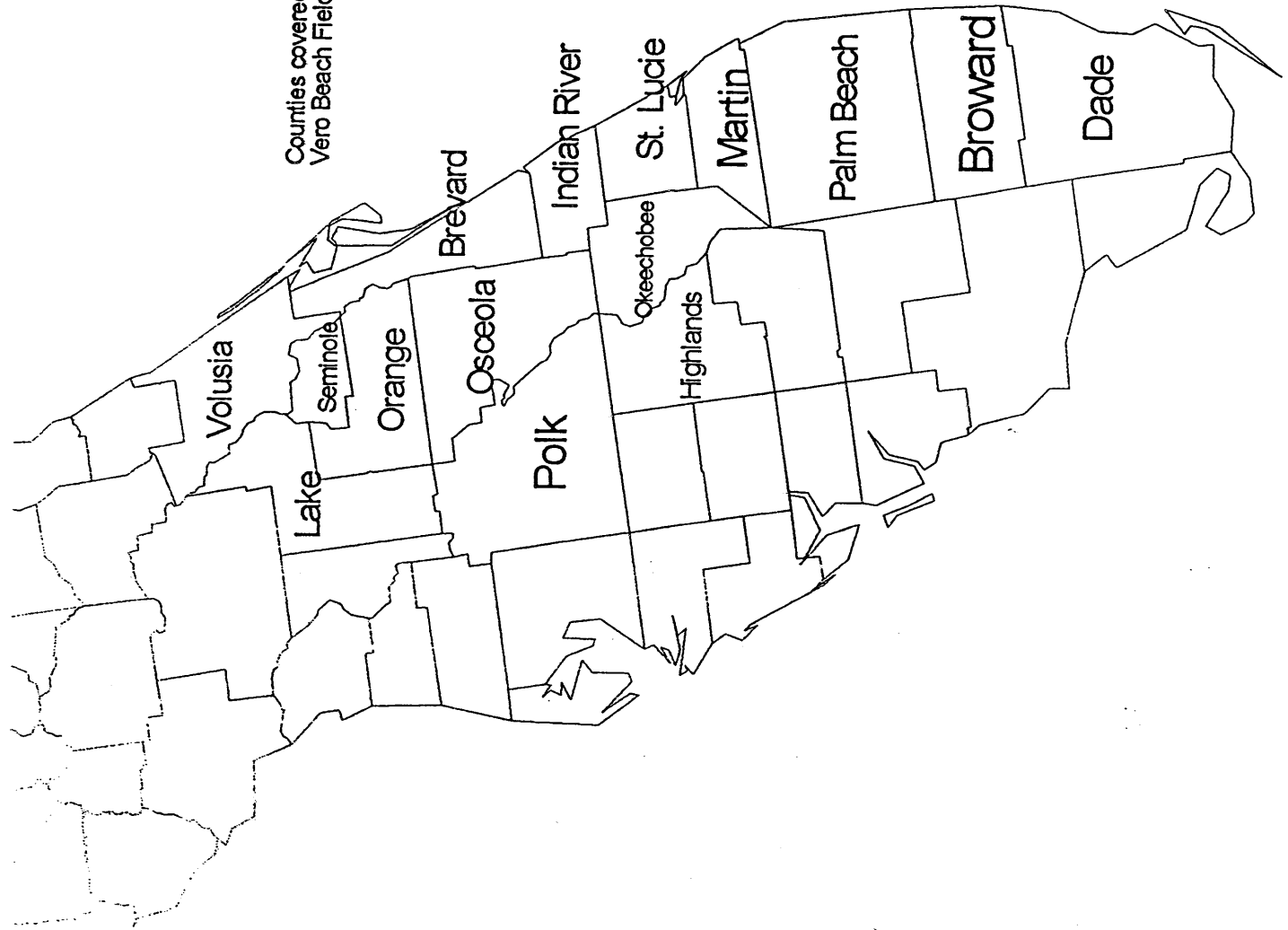
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "SRL", followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephen R. Lau
Biological Administrator

SRL/JMW/rs
ENV 1-13-2
enclosure
lsreq.vi

Counties covered by the
Vero Beach Field Office



APPENDIX II

Coordination Letters



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MAY 10 1995

Construction-Operations Division
Public Notice Number PN-GIW-200

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The District Engineer, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is preparing an application for submittal to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977. This Federal project is being evaluated and coordinated pursuant to 33 CFR 335 through 338.

Comments regarding the project should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer at the above address within 30 days from the date of this notice. Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the construction of this project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Mr. David Gerland of this office, telephone 904-232-3600.

WATERWAY & LOCATION: Casey's Pass and Intracoastal Waterway, Caloosahatchee to Anclote River, Sarasota County, Florida

WORK & PURPOSE: The work to be performed is routine maintenance dredging of Casey's Pass and the Intracoastal Waterway, Caloosahatchee to Anclote River as needed. The dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway is expected to be performed only in the vicinity of Casey's Pass. The material is to be dredged from the channels and placed on Snake Island. Placement of material on Snake Island will enhance the beach area on the west side of the island. Any quantity of dredged material that is greater than can be accommodated on Snake Island will be placed on Venice Beach south of Casey's Pass. The specific locations for placement on Venice Beach will be determined based on the need for material at the time of the dredging. The purpose of the work is to maintain safe navigation along the Intracoastal Waterway and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Intracoastal Waterway.

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION:
House Document No. 371, 76th Congress, First Session

EVALUATION:

An environmental assessment is being prepared to evaluate the impacts of the project. A preliminary environmental evaluation indicates that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), would not be required. Copies of the NEPA documentation will be made available upon request.

APPLICABLE LAWS: The following laws are, or may be, applicable to the review of the proposed disposal sites and to the activities affiliated with this Federal project:

1. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217) (33 U.S.C. 1344).
2. Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (PL 92-532) (33 U.S.C. 1413, 86 Stat. 1052).
3. Section 302 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (PL 92-532, 86 Stat. 1052).
4. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347).
5. Sections 307(c) (1) and (2) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)(1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280).
6. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.).
7. The Migratory Marine Game-Fish Act of 1959 (16 U.S.C. 760c-760g).
8. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (16 U.S.C. 661-666c).
9. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) 16 U.S.C. 668aa-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884).
10. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, 80 Stat. 915).
11. Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 82 Stat. 816).

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The proposal has been evaluated in accordance with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Act and was determined to be consistent with the goals and intent of the appropriate State statutes. This determination is based on the preliminary environmental evaluation, the Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, and the Coastal Zone Consistency Determination. Full compliance will be achieved by issuance of the necessary permits from the State.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be conducted. Based on our preliminary evaluation, it is anticipated that a "No Effects" determination will be made regarding manatees. It is anticipated that sea turtles nesting on the beach may be effected.

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES: Other important resources which will be considered in the environmental assessment will include seagrasses, mangroves, and hardbottoms. It is believed that the project will not effect any of these resources.

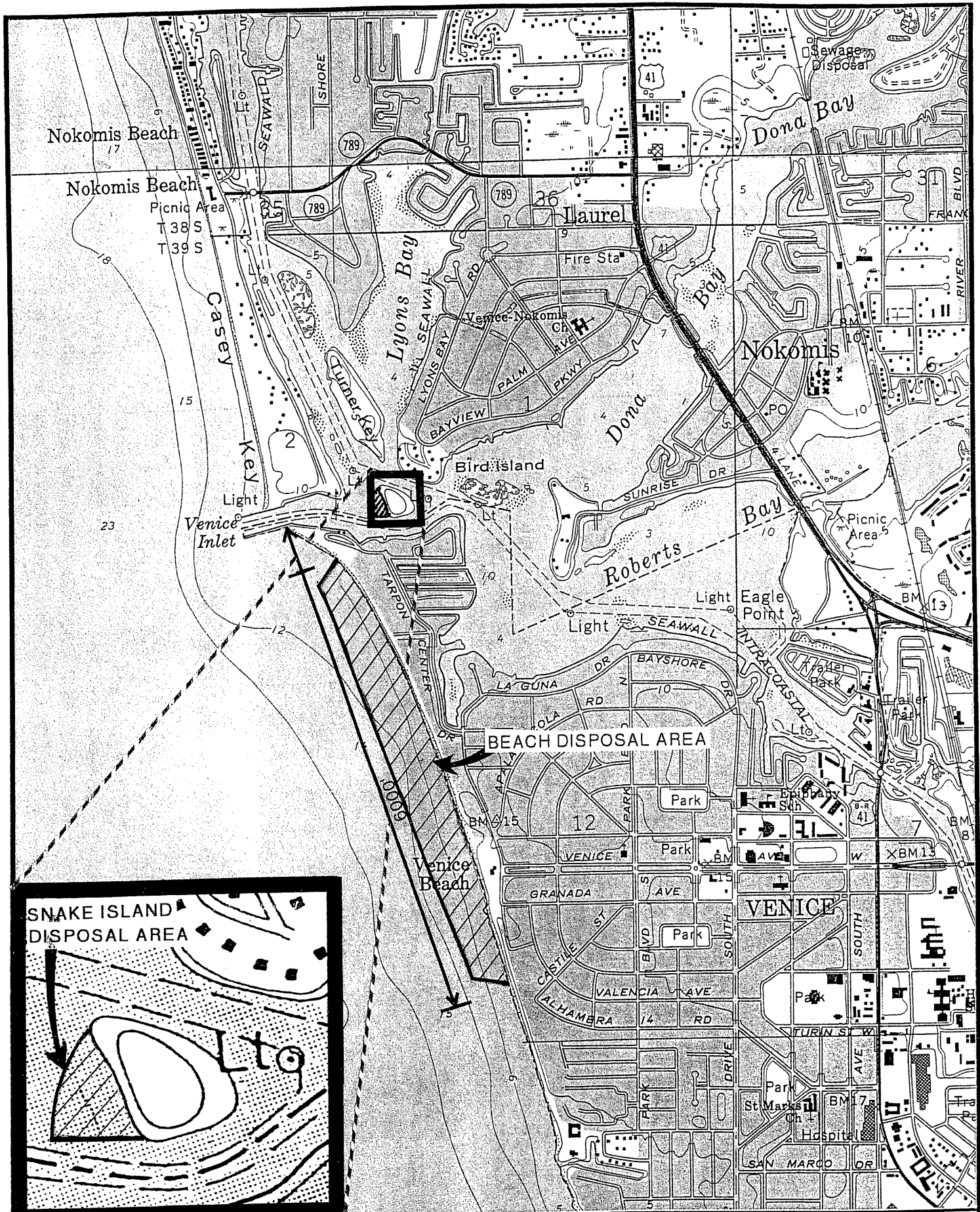
EVALUATION FACTORS: All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

DISSEMINATION OF NOTICE: You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have an interest in this matter.

COORDINATION: This notice is being sent to, and coordinated with, the following agencies:

FEDERAL AGENCIES:

Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, Miami, FL
Director, Atlantic Marine Ctr., NOAA, Norfolk, VA
FDA, Regional Shellfish Specialist, Atlanta, GA
Director, National Park Ser., Southeast Region, Atlanta, GA
Regional Director, National Park Ser., SE Region, Atlanta, GA
Regional Director, Fish & Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA
Field Supervisor, Fish & Wildlife Service, Jacksonville, FL
Field Supervisor, Fish & Wildlife Service, Vero Beach, FL
Regional Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Atlanta, GA
District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey, WRD, Tallahassee, FL
Regional Hydrologist, NOAA, National Weather Ser., Fort Worth, TX
Southeast River Forecast Ctr., NOAA, National Weather Service, Atlanta, GA



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Maintenance Dredging of Venice Inlet

Sarasota County, Florida

Dredged Material Disposal Areas



NORTH

NOT TO SCALE

Figure : 3

DWG No. : 56011j19.DWG

Prepared by : CAS

Job No. : 94056011

Date : 19 October 1996

APPENDIX I

Field Survey of Venice Inlet, Florida